

progress. Between it and habit there is constant antagonism, and a slight preponderance of one or the other marks the difference between the Liberal and the Conservative temperament. The manifestations of this instinct can be traced throughout the animal kingdom : it is the impulse which prompts so many creatures to change their homes—to migrate. The force of habit makes strongly for stay-at-home life; yet at certain periods, or in certain circumstances, many kinds of animals are seized with a passion to adventure themselves in new surroundings. Swallows and snipe, for instance, are annually driven by this impulse enormous distances across ice-bound mountains and stormy seas. In most cases the impulse has results of advantage : stirred by it, birds avail themselves of food which abounds during summer in northern, and during winter in southern latitudes. Those which feed upon insects would perish during the lifelessness of a northern winter. But the instinct is sometimes a deadly possession. Swarms of locusts and butterflies will fly out to certain death in the ocean. The lemmings¹ of Norway periodically assemble in vast multitudes and travel westwards with no apparent object, those that escape death on the mountains not fearing it when they reach the coast, but swimming boldly out to sea. In the history of mankind the migratory impulse has been of incalculable importance : it has

provoked
desolating wars ; but it has maintained
a connection between different peoples, and
has been a
potent influence in spreading culture.
Without
it races would have lived, as it were, in
closed
compartments, and we should not find
that the
primary discoveries of civilization—the
use of
fire, of the plough, of the loom, as well
as many

¹ A small field rat (*Myodes lemmus*).